

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 13362 151130Z

17

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 124831

P 151124Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4755

S E C R E T LONDON 13362

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN FROM DEPORTE/CALDWELL

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PO, GW, UK

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION ON PORTUGAL WITH HMG

REF: LONDON 13281, STATE 222263

1. TWO-HOUR TALK OCTOBER 14 WITH DAVID THOMAS AND RICHARD BAKER, FCO SOUTHWEST EUROPE DESK, PRODUCED FOLLOWING HIGHLIGHTS.

2. ACCORDING TO THOMAS ABORTIVE PRO-SPINOLA RALLY BIG SETBACK FOR RIGHT, BUT SEPTEMBER 27-28 EVENTS MAY ALSO SHARPEN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MFA AND PCP. MFA LEADERS PROBABLY GIVEN PAUSE BY COMMUNIST STRENGTH AND TENACITY IN MANNING BARRICADES.

3. ALTHOUGH INFORMATION SPOTTY AND SITUATION CONFUSED, MFA GENERALLY "DEMOCRATIC" AND "SOCIALIST," NOT COMMUNIST. UNCERTAIN WHETHER COSTA GOMES WILL BE EFFECTIVE LEADER OR STRAW MAN, BUT THOMAS THINKS HE MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE A BETTER POLITICIAN THAN SPINOLA, WHO PROVED VERY INEPT. INDICATIONS ARE THAT PROMISED ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD THOUGH PERHAPS SOMEWHAT DELAYED. RIGHT AND MODERATES WILL OBVIOUSLY FIND IT HARDER TO ORGANIZE EFFECTIVE CAMPAIGN THAN BEFORE SPINOLA'S FALL, BUT THERE IS MUCH CONSERVATIVE SENTIMENT IN COUNTRY IF IT CAN BE REGISTERED AT THE POLLS. THOMAS DID NOT BELIEVE PCDS WOULD WITH-

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 13362 151130Z

DRAW FROM POLITICS. HE GUESSES THAT LEFT (COMMUNISTS,

SOCIALISTS, PPD) WILL HAVE MAJORITY IN ASSEMBLY. ASSEMBLY WILL WRITE NEW CONSTITUTION BUT IS NOT TO GOVERN. GOVERNMENT SETUP WOULD THEREFORE CONTINUE AS IS WITH POSSIBLE SHAKEUP IN LIGHT OF ELECTION RESULTS. MFA WILL FIND IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO WITHDRAW FROM POLITICS EVEN AFTER ELECTION, PARTICULARLY AS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WORSEN.

4. LABOR PARTY OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE TO SOCIALISTS WERE WELCOMED BY PORTUGUESE, BUT NOT FOLLOWED UP. ONLY LABOR UNION CONTACT CITED WAS BETWEEN BRITISH AND PORTUGUESE TRANSPORT UNIONS IN JULY-AUGUST. BRITISH REPS RETURNED SAYING THAT PCP INFLUENCE AT LEAST IN PORTUGUESE TRANSPORT UNION WAS NOT SUBSTANTIAL AND THAT WORKERS AGAINST POLITICIZATION OF UNION. PSP SENT OBSERVERS TO BRITISH ELECTION AT LABOR PARTY INVITATION AND CONSERVATIVES INVITED PCDS REPS. OFFICIAL PORTUGUESE GROUP, INCLUDING TWO COLONELS, WAS GUEST OF BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

5. WHILE RECOGNIZING EXISTENCE PRO-NONALIGNMENT CURRENTS WITHIN MFA, THOMAS SEES PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT MAINTAINING PRO-WEST FOREIGN POLICY FOR WANT OF GOOD ALTERNATIVE AND REALIZATION OF NEED OF WESTERN ECONOMIC HELP. SPAIN PROBABLY GIVING HELP TO CONSERVATIVES, BUT SPANISH INTERVENTION VIEWED AS UNLIKELY.

6. COMMENT: THOMAS SEES WORSENING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS CLOUDING OUTLOOK BUT ALSO SEES A NUMBER OF POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE FUTURES WITH WORST BEING NATIONALIST-LEFTIST MILITARY REGIME. HE THINKS IT BEST FOR WESTERN ALLIES TO ACT AS IF THEY ARE HOPEFUL ABOUT PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS. IN GENERAL, WE JUDGE THAT BRITISH ARE CONCERNED ABOUT PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS, NOT PARTICULARLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE, BUT NOT FATALISTIC AS TO ANY PARTICULAR OUTCOME. END COMMENT.

ANNENBERG

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON13362
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740292-0581
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741047/aaaabnvh.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: LONDON 13281, STATE 222263
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISCUSSION ON PORTUGAL WITH HMG
TAGS: PFOR, PO, GE, UK, (SPINOLA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005